

# BLACK SCIENCE

3

RICK REMENDER  
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EDITOR

**PREVIOUSLY:** Anarchist scientist Grant McKay and his team are stranded in a brutal world, where a devastating war rages. The Pillar, Grant's lifework and the object that allows travel through dimensions, has been sabotaged. Worse still, Grant himself has been critically wounded, forcing Security Chief Ward, Grant's assistant Shawn and their peevish boss Kadir on a rescue mission into enemy trenches...

**BLACK SCIENCE** created by Rick Remender & Matteo Scalera.



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GRANT'S  
TEAM HAS  
FAILED.



NO, SIR.

I NO LONGER HAVE FAITH IN HIS ABILITY TO BE THE PILLAR TO WORK.

YES, SIR.

I KNOW, SIR.

YOU'VE GIVEN HIM SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITY.

THE RISKS WE'VE TAKEN, THE LAWS WE'VE BROKEN...

YOU'VE BEEN MORE THAN FAIR, MR. BLOCK.



I COULDN'T POSSIBLY PRESUME TO --

ARE YOU CERTAIN--?



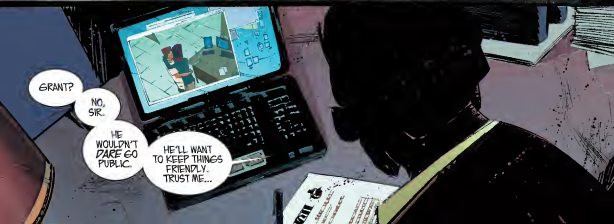
IF YOU INSIST... YES, OF COURSE I WILL--

I'LL LET THEM GO THIS AFTERNOON.

YOU HAVE MY ASSURANCE.



I'LL PERSONALLY GET THIS PROJECT BACK ON TRACK.

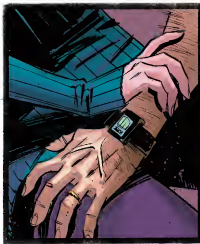


GRANT?

NO, SIR.

WE WOULDN'T DARE GO PUBLIC.

HE'LL WANT TO KEEP THINGS FRIENDLY. TRUST ME...





AND NOW, WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE PILLAR... WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR US?

DO YOU WANT TO BE WITH ME, OR IS THIS ALL JUST THE RESULT OF PROXIMITY?



I LOVE YOU, BECCA.

I NEED YOU.

IF YOU THINK I LIKE THE PRETENDING AND THE LIES— YOU'RE WRONG.

EITHER WAY, GRANT—



IT'S TIME TO MAKE A DECISION.



I WON'T DO THIS ANYMORE.



YOU'RE RIGHT.



I'LL END IT WITH SARA TONIGHT.



GRANT, PICK UP.

YOU'RE TWENTY MINUTES LATE FOR YOUR 3 O'CLOCK...



...YOUR KIDS ARE WAITING.



3 HOURS  
LATER

GHRAHHH=!

THE SCREAM IS INDESCRIBABLE.

SUCH A RELIEF WHEN HE'S GONE.

ALIS  
DELY  
DI!

A MEDICINE MAN.

FRESH WOUNDED.

HERE FOR THE  
SAME THING  
WE ARE.

FMH.

HOLE IN HIS CHEST.

KIND YOU DON'T  
RECOVER FROM.

DEEP  
DEEP



NEVER SEEN  
ANYTHING  
LIKE IT.



SUCKING CHEST WOUND  
BINDS IN SECONDS.



SHAMAN CAN  
SAVE GRANT.

MIGHT TAKE A WHILE TO HIS  
HEAD TO CONVINCE HIM.



—BUT I'LL GET HIM THERE.  
CRANKY OLD CUSS  
BARKS WITH INTENTION.

THE TENOR OF A MAN  
RAVING AN ARMY TO  
REVENGE.



TO  
WAR.

THREE GENERATIONS OF MY FAMILY  
ARE BURIED IN FIELDS LIKE THIS.

ALL BECAUSE OF THE BAD DECISIONS  
OF INCOMPETENT LEADERS.



AND I SPENT MY  
ENTIREMENT TERRIFIED  
OF SHARING THEIR FATE.

NOT OF DEATH, BUT OF DYING  
POINTLESSLY BECAUSE OF A  
CONVART OR IDIOT IN CHARGE.

INCREIBLE.

SOME KIND  
OF INVERSE  
RANDOMIST  
PESTINY.

T-THEY'RE  
NEARING  
THE PIRECTION  
OF THE  
FUTURE

WASD?  
WHAT ARE WE  
DOING?

GOTTA  
GOSS THAT  
SHAMAN.

THAT'S THE SHIT THAT KEEPS ME UP AT NIGHT.

WHY I DIDN'T TAKE THE PROMOTIONS.

TO KEEP MYSELF CLOSER TO THE  
BATTLEFIELD—CLOSER TO THE GRUNTS.



TO SAVE THEM FROM THE BAD  
DECISIONS OF EMPTY SUITS.

NO, THAT IS  
STUPID.  
THEY'LL SPOT  
YOU.

GRANT'S  
DYING. WE  
HAVE TO  
DO—

JUST  
STAY PUT,  
KADIR.



NO REPORTS  
TO BE FILED  
OUT HERE.

BOY GENIUS FOLLOWS  
WITHOUT HESITATION...



KID HAS  
REAL HEART.

CAN SEE WHY GRANT  
LOVES HIM LIKE A SON.





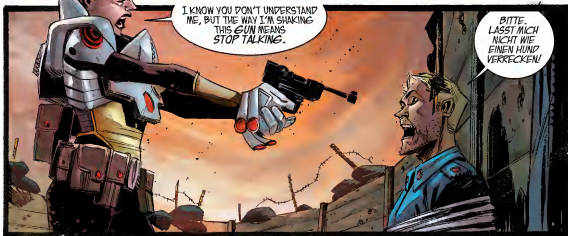


H-H-E'S NOT MOVING.

HIS BREATHING IS SHALLOW. BUT HE'S STABLE AGAIN, NATHAN.

HE'S HOLDING ON.

SIE KOMMEN. WIR MÜSSEN HIER WEG!



I KNOW YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ME, BUT THE WAY I'M SHAKING THIS GUN MEANS STOP TALKING.

BITTE. LASST MICH NICHT WIE EINEN HUND VERRECKEN!



MAKE HIM SHUT UP!

MAKE HIM SHUT UP OR I WILL!

FUCK'S SAKE CHANDRA!



YOU HAVE TO CALM DOWN.

YOU'LL DRAW EVERY SOLDIER IN THE AREA.



WHEN THIS ONE SAW US, SAW OUR TECHNOLOGY, HE ASSUMED WE WERE THE ENEMY.

WHAT HAPPENS IF HIS FRIENDS FIND US WITH HIM LIKE THIS?



HOW DID I  
MISS THE  
GIANT  
FUCKING  
ROBOT?

THOOM

DOOF--!

HOW THE FUCK AM I GOING TO  
DIE BECAUSE KADIR WAS *RIGHT*?

SHA--!

I LED SHAWN OUT HERE.

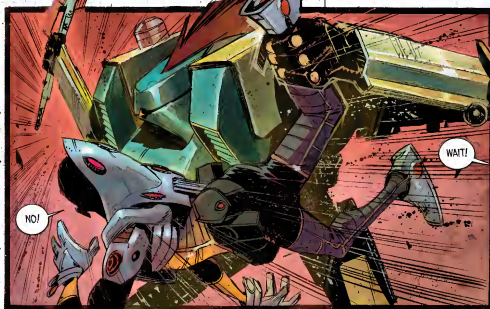
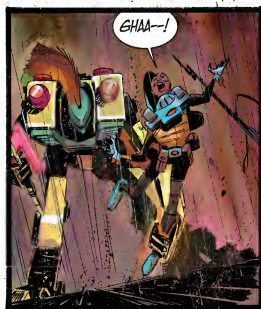
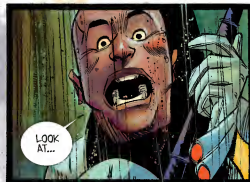
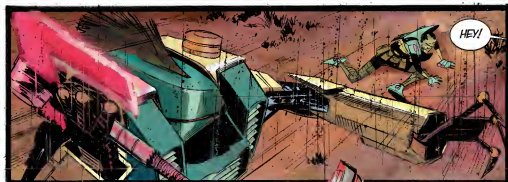
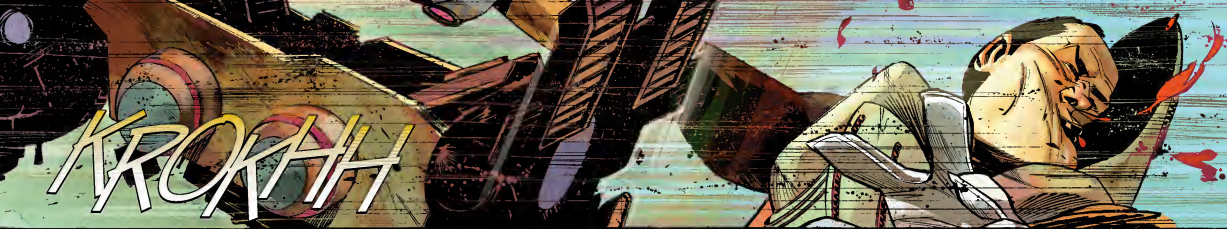
KID TRUSTED ME.  
FOLLOWED ME.

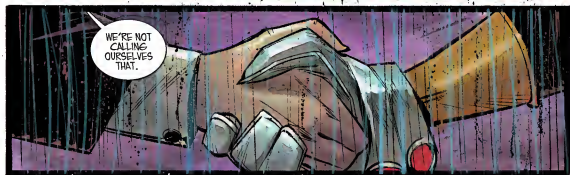
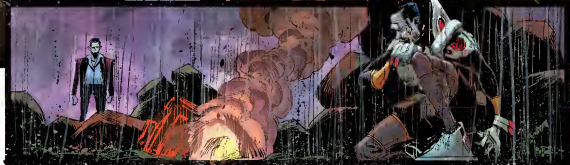
O-YO-  
HU-SI!

GET HIM HOME.

GET THAT GRENADE AND  
BLOW THIS PIECE OF--

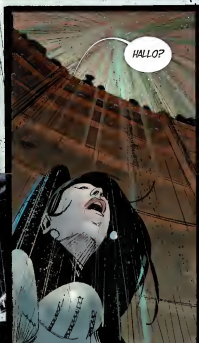
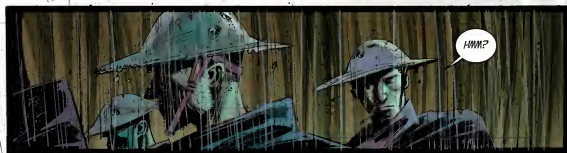




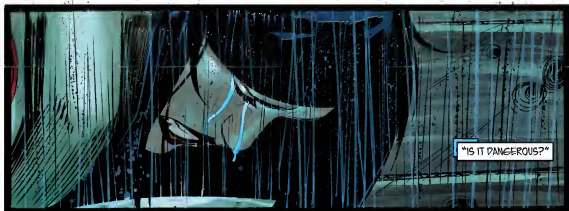
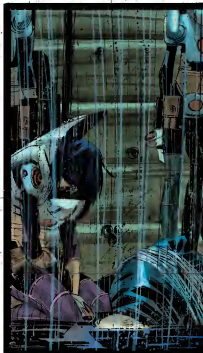
















WHAT IS THIS?

YOUR KIDS DON'T HAVE CLEARANCE TO BE HERE.

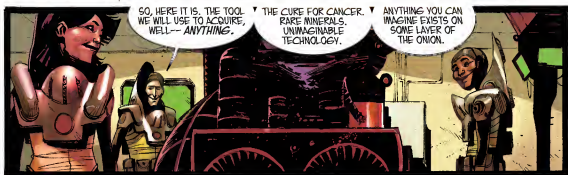
WOW.

PRETTY COOL, RIGHT?

I'M GOING TO REPORT THIS TO KADRIR.

DON'T LET SMITHERS BUG YOU.

HEH.



SO, HERE IT IS. THE TOOL WE WILL USE TO ACQUIRE, WELL— ANYTHING.

THE CURE FOR CANCER. RARE MINERALS. UNIMAGINABLE TECHNOLOGY.

ANYTHING YOU CAN IMAGINE EXISTS ON SOME LAYER OF THE ONION.



THE ONION?

THE BUILDING BLOCK OF INFINIOLOGY.

THE THEORY THAT ANYTHING YOU CAN IMAGINE EXISTS IN SOME LAYER OF THE EVERVERSE.

WE CALL THIS CONSTRUCT "THE ONION." LAYER UPON LAYER OF PARALLEL DIMENSIONS.

THE PILLAR IS A TOOL THAT PUSHES THROUGH THESE LAYERS, ALLOWING US TO TRAVEL TO THESE OTHER WORLDS.

WOW.

EACH LAYER REPRESENTS AN IMMENSURABLE NUMBER OF REALITIES, EACH CREATED FROM THE CHOICES MADE BY EVERY LIVING BEING IN THE UNIVERSE.

ONCE WE MAP THEM, WE CAN FIND THE SOLUTION TO EVERY PROBLEM MANKIND FACES.



IF IT IS LIKE  
THAT, LAYERS  
BUILT ON LAYERS—  
WHAT'S AT THE  
CENTER OF  
IT?

THAT'S A  
DAMN GOOD  
QUESTION,  
NATE.

WE ALL HAVE  
OUR OWN THEORIES,  
BUT IT'S JUST  
SPECULATION.

ONE DAY, SOME  
DIMENSIONAUT WILL  
TRAVEL DEEP  
ENOUGH INTO THE  
ONION TO FIND  
OUT.

MAYBE  
IT'LL BE  
YOU.

WHATEVER IS  
AT THE CORE, IT'S  
THE FIRST DIMENSION,  
THE FIRST LIFE THAT  
MADE THE FIRST  
DECISION THAT THEN  
BROKE OFF  
INTO OTHER  
DIMENSIONS.



SO,  
IT'S LIKE  
GOD?

THERE'S NO SUCH  
THING, BUDDY. BUT  
WHATEVER IS AT  
THE CORE OF THE  
ONION...

...IT'S THE  
CLOSEST  
THING TO  
IT.

UM,  
DAD---

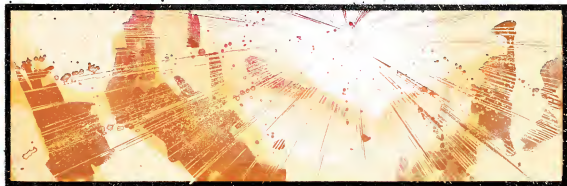


IS YOUR POOHICKEY  
SUPPOSED TO SPARK  
LIKE THAT?

FIZZIT







TO BE CONTINUED

# BLACK SCIENCE



Rick,

I've enjoyed your work over the years, but for me it keeps going back to FEAR AGENT. I've read and re-read that series a dozen times and what captivates me the most is the struggles that Heath has with life: alcoholism, relationships and everything in between. Nothing quite approaches that level of character complexity in your impressive career.

Now BLACK SCIENCE arrives. If the first issue is any indication then this series is going there too and perhaps beyond. Time will tell.

Well done on the first issue.

Brandon Borzelli

PS - I re-read the issue listening to Daft Punk's Disc Wars track from Tron Legacy, and it was awesome. I recommend it.

**Rick Remender:** *Thanks for the support, Brandon. This series is markedly different from FEAR AGENT, primarily in it's having an ensemble cast that we'll be focusing our attention on, and not just one main hero. But it'll still reflect the same kind of tone, fun, high-adventure and imagination.*

*I'm a big fan of that Tron soundtrack. I was definitely listening to it while writing some portion of the series.*

Honestly, when I received my

issue of BLACK SCIENCE from the local comic book shop I was surprised. From the cover alone, I knew it was going to be an interesting Sci-Fi adventure. I felt the characters were moving through the pages like in an action movie. It all flowed so well, I greatly look forward to Issue #2 and hope to see more great work from you all.

Thank you for this refreshingly different and interesting insight to strange new worlds and piquing my curiosity outside of super heroes. Happy holidays and keep up the good work.

PJ Russel

**RR:** *Glad you're enjoying the book. Now that we've spent a couple of issues getting to know our cast I can put the pedal down and drive these poor bastards over a cliff.*

Hey Rick,

Man, the first issue of BLACK SCIENCE reminds me of the glory days of FEAR AGENT. I will be following it, along with Uncanny Avengers.

My friend and I have been drooling over your Marvel work for years now. UNCANNY X-FORCE was unlike anything we had seen in a long time.

Look, I asked Greg Pak, Brian K. Vaughan and Mark Waid, for advice, and now I have a question for you: What do you do when you have that addiction

to creating new comics, but you don't have the money to pay an artist, and you have no artistic talent whatsoever?

You nailed it on the head with your comic writing / heroin addiction metaphor. I think I might have to write a novel first, to make a name for myself, and use that credit get into the industry. The problem is, I love writing comic scripts and writing prose is like pulling teeth. What do you think? Thanks for your time; any kind of advice coming from you would be awesome!

Pete

**RR:** *If you don't have an artist friend you can collaborate with, the best thing to do is to take out a loan, or get a credit card, and hire an artist. Before you dedicate those kinds of resources make sure that you've got a script written from front to back that you really believe in. The other option is Kickstarter, something that didn't exist when I was coming up in the indie scene in the mid-to-late 90s. Back then our Kickstarter was called "high interest credit cards". Thanks for the support and good luck making your comics!*

I had to read this in natural light. I'd started it the night before, but I could tell there were subtleties and nuances to the colors that I was missing. In the afternoon sunlight, it was

like the world of BLACK SCIENCE came alive for me. I can't remember spending so much time staring at a single panel as I did with each of these.

I'd been waiting for this comic for months, anxiously holding my breath. Looks like I'll be holding it for 30 more days. I cannot wait for more BLACK SCIENCE.

Annie, a fellow addict

**RR:** *Sounds like somebody's been doing some day drinking. Inebriated or not, we appreciate you letting us know you enjoyed it!*

Dear Rick,

Although I'm no scientist, below is an equation that expresses my thoughts about BLACK SCIENCE...

$R + S + D + W + C = A$

where

R = Rick Remender

S = Matteo Scalera

D = Dean White

W = Rus Wooton

C = cool characters

A = AWESOME!

Reed Beebe

**RR:** *Don't let our editor*

*Sebastian see that you've left him off of your equation! He is a terrible monster of rage and vindictiveness. He will swallow our world whole if his pride be not satiated.*

**Sebastian Girner:** *It's cool. I'm sure the "A = Awesome" was intended for me.*

All I can say is "Thank You".

To the creative team, and Image Comics for bringing out this issue. I've never written into a comic's letter column before, as an avid reader of, oh, all my life. But this did it. I was (and still am) a huge fan of FEAR AGENT, and felt something lacking in my life with its departure every time I went back to my LCS looking for that missing...something.

BLACK SCIENCE is a real return to form and EXACTLY the infusion of balls-out genius I needed to get enthusiastic about my New Comic Wednesday again, where other books have been letting me down.

The art by Matteo and Dean knocked me out of my chair. I can't draw any parallels to it - it is just incredible. The characterization of Grant right now is frenetic and compelling.

Thank you for the beginning steps to an amazing journey you are about to send us all on and I can't wait to pick up every subsequent issue from this point on.

I'll stop kissing ass and let you get back to taking my money.

--Joe Martin

**RR:** *The kind words are greatly appreciated, Joe. The unbridled imagination of this series has only really just begun. It's always difficult to introduce an ensemble cast in an exciting way, and we've reworked this outline for months and months to hopefully do it in a fashion that invests you are characters while keeping the velocity of the action compelling.*

*Okay, so that's it for this month, be here next month to see who survives and to journey to an Earth that is an intergalactic gas station. It's basically just our cast, stoned, rummaging through a convenience mart trying to decide what candy bar and sodas they are going to buy.*

*Keep sending in your ideas for names for our letter column. We've received dozens of ideas, many of them very good, the next issue will go through them and pick a winner!*

**Rick**





# NEXT MONTH

## BLACK SCIENCE



RICK REMENDER  
MATTEO SCALERA  
DEAN WHITE



\$3.50



# HOLD YOUR BREATH



ORLANDO • TRAKHANOV • MAUER

# UNDERTOW

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SEX. DRUGS. ROCK-N-ROLL. RITUAL KILLERS.

# FATALE

ED BRUBAKER  
SEAN PHILLIPS



BOOK FOUR

IMAGECOMICS.COM

FEBRUARY

## PRAY FOR RAIN

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IT'S FUNNY, HEARTBREAKING AND REAL ALL AT ONCE...  
WHILE ALSO BEING ABOUT SEX AND CRIME...  
ONE OF THE BEST COMICS I'VE READ IN YEARS."  
- ED BRUBAKER (FATALE, VELVET, CAPTAIN AMERICA: WINTER SOLDIER)

"SEX CRIMINALS IS NOT JUST ONE OF THE BEST  
COMICS I'VE EVER READ, IT'S ONE OF THE  
BEST THINGS I'VE EVER READ, PERIOD."

-WIL WHEATON, WILWHEATON.NET

"WE DIDN'T THINK MATT FRACTION  
AND CHIP ZDARSKY'S SEX CRIMINALS  
COULD POSSIBLY GET ANY BETTER THAN  
ITS STELLAR FIRST ISSUE.  
WE WERE WRONG."

-MELISSA GREY, IGN

"MATT FRACTION IS  
ONE OF THE GREAT WRITERS  
OF THE MEDIUM AND, HELL,  
THIS MIGHT BE HIS  
MASTERPIECE."

-BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS  
(ALL-NEW X-MEN, POWERS)

"ZDARSKY'S ART  
TAKES WHAT COULD BE  
THE SKEEVIEST TITLES  
ON SHELVES INTO  
THE SWEETEST."

- JAMES JOHNSTON,  
MULTIVERSITY COMICS

"THIS SERIES IS CLAWING  
EVER CLOSER TO  
GENUINELY PERFECT."

-DAVID HENDERSON,  
MULTIVERSITY COMICS

"YOU'LL DEFINITELY  
WANT TO COME  
ON BOARD TO SEE WHERE  
THIS IS GOING TO GO."

- TONY GUERRERO, COMIC VINE

"WELL... SEX CRIMINALS IS LIKE  
THE BEST COMIC EVER WRITTEN."

- ROBERT KIRKMAN (THE WALKING DEAD, INVINCIBLE)

"ENJOYABLE FROM START TO FINISH,  
SEX CRIMINALS IS PROBABLY THE WEIRDEST AND  
SWEETEST BOOK I'VE READ IN A LONG TIME."

ALBION BERRY, COMICOSTY

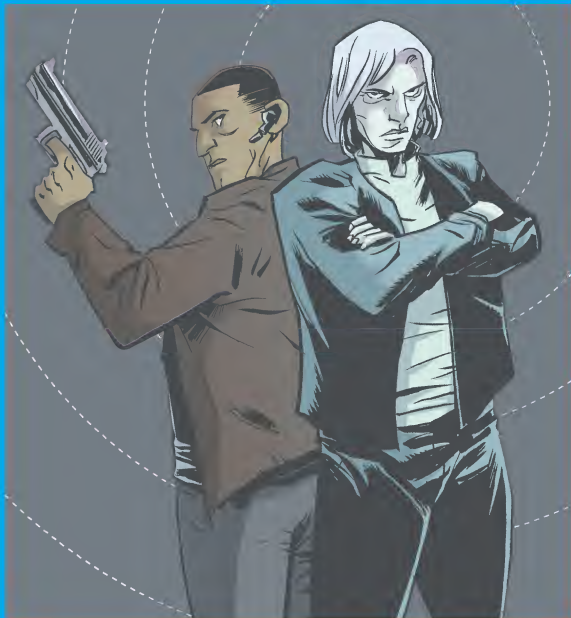
MATT FRACTION **SEX CRIMINALS** CHIP ZDARSKY

THE CRITICS AGREE:  
YOU'RE UNDER  
ARREST



ON SALE NOW  
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